

Message Text

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44

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-04 SS-20 SP-03 NSC-07 L-03 PA-04

PRS-01 USIA-15 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 DRC-01

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R 181350Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY OSLO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8354

INFO AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

C O N F I D E N T I A L OSLO 2396

EUR/EE FOR HOUSTON

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS SCUL HU XH

SUBJECT: AMERICAN PROFESSOR HARASSED DURING RECENT VISIT TO BUDAPEST

1. PROFESSOR ISTVAN DEAK OF COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY CALLED ON EMBOFF JUNE 17 TO RECOUNT UNHAPPY EXPERIENCES AT HANDS OF HUNGARIAN AUTHORITIES DURING JUNE 7-15 VISIT TO BUDAPEST. UPON LEAVING BUDAPEST, DEAK CONTACTED PROFESSOR ALAN KASSOF OF IREX BY TELEPHONE WHO REPORTEDLY URGED DEAK TO CALL AT NEAREST AMERICAN EMBASSY SO THAT DEPARTMENT OF STATE WOULD RECEIVE FIRST HAND REPORT OF WHAT TRANSPIRED.

2. ACCORDING TO DEAK, HISTORY OF HIS FREQUENT PAST VISITS TO HUNGARY AS IREX SCHOLAR WELL KNOWN TO DEPARTMENT AND EMBASSY BUDAPEST. DEAK RE-ENTERED HUNGARY JUNE 7 ON TEN-DAY VISITOR'S VISA TO VISIT RELATIVES. FROM MOMENT HE ENTERED COUNTRY, HE WAS SUBJECTED TO CLOSE, "AGGRESSIVE," 24-HOUR SURVEILLANCE. THOSE HUNGARIANS WITH WHOME HE HAD CONTACT DURING HIS VISIT, INCLUDING SEVERAL HIGH-RANKING HUNGARIAN COMMUNISTS, WERE ALSO FOLLOWED AND PRESEMUABLY INTERROGATED. DEAK STATES THAT HE BECAME SO DISGUSTED AND ANGERED AT THIS TREATMENT THAT HE DECIDED TO CUT SHORT HIS VISIT BY 2 DAYS AND DEPART HUNGARY ON JUNE 15. AT AIRPORT JUNE 15, DEAK WAS STOPPED AT PASSPORT

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CONTROL TAKEN TO PRIVATE ROOM, STRIPPED AND SEARCHED. HIS

BAGGAGE, WHICH HAD ALREADY BEEN PUT ON AIRCRAFT, WAS BROUGHT BACK AND COMBED OVER ARTICLE BY ARTICLE. DEAK DOES NOT KNOW WHAT HUNGARIANS WERE LOOKING FOR BUT HE SUSPECTS IT MAY HAVE BEEN A FOLDER OF RESEARCH NOTES ON REVOLUTION OF 1848 WHICH WAS HANDED TO HIM BY HUNGARIAN GIRL WHO HAD BEEN DOING RESEARCH IN ARCHIVES FOR HIM. DEAK HAD PROMPTLY TURNED THESE RESEARCH NOTES OVER TO HUNGARIAN INSTITUTE OF HISTORY AND ASKED THAT INSTITUTE SEND FOLDER FOR HIM TO HIS COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY ADDRESS. WHEN AUTHORITIES AT AIRPORT FOUND NOTHING THEIR TONE CHANGED DRASTICALLY, SINCERE APOLOGIES WERE OFFERED AND DEAK WAS ALLOWED TO DEPART. DELAY AT AIRPORT AMOUNTED TO APPROXIMATELY ONE HOUR.

3. DEAK WILL RETURN TO NEW YORK JUNE 22 AND PROMISES TO MAKE FULL REPORT TO IREX AT THAT TIME
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